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GENERAL DISCUSSION ON PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF AGENDA 21, FOCUSING ON THE CROSS-SECTORAL COMPONENTS OF AGENDA 21 AND THE CRITICAL ELEMENTS OF SUSTAINABILITY

Letter dated 4 May 1994 from the Permanent Representative of Thailand to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to refer to the second session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, which is scheduled to be held in New York from 16 to 27 May 1994, and on behalf of the States members of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) have the honour to transmit herewith copies of the following five documents which have been adopted by ASEAN (see annex), together with the request that they be circulated as an official document of the Commission on Sustainable Development:

(a) Post-UNCED Issues: ASEAN's Priorities and Responses;

(b) ASEAN Strategic Plan of Action on the Environment;

(c) Action Plan on the ASEAN Environment Year 1995;

(d) ASEAN Harmonized Environmental Quality Standards;

(e) Bandar Seri Begawan Resolution on Environment and Development.

(Signed) Nitya PIBULSONGGRAM
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
on behalf of the Chairman
of the ASEAN Standing Committee

* E/CN.17/1994/1.

Annex

POST-UNCED ISSUES:
ASEAN's Priorities and Responses

ASEAN's INITIATIVES

1. As a regional grouping of developing nations, ASEAN has long recognized the need to strike a balance between the promotion of economic growth and the protection of the environment, both of which are inextricably linked. The ASEAN Summits and Ministerial Declarations since 1981 have consistently guided ASEAN cooperation in the field of environmental management based on the principle of sustainable development. The Manila Declaration of 1981 set out policy guidelines for effective environmental protection, while the Bangkok Declaration of 1984 emphasised a comprehensive sectoral approach towards environmental management. The Jakarta Resolution of 1987 adopted the principle of sustainable development in environmental management, while the subsequent Kuala Lumpur (1990) and Singapore (1992) Resolutions spelt out various policies to promote regional cooperation based on the principle of sustainable development. Many Agenda 21 themes and action programmes are therefore already embodied in ASEAN cooperation programmes.

2. In the short two years after the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), ASEAN has taken further steps towards greater regional cooperation on the environment. This was in response to, among others, the need for enhanced regional activities as called for by Agenda 21 and the increased intra-ASEAN development and economic initiatives such as ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA). The recent Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers for the Environment held in April 1994 adopted The Bandar Seri Begawan Resolution on Environment and Development in which contains the following new initiatives:

(a) adoption of the ASEAN Strategic Plan of Action on the Environment, which sets out specific strategies based on the principle of sustainable development;

(b) agreement on Harmonized Environmental Quality Standards for ambient air and river water quality in the ASEAN region, to be achieved by the year 2010;

(c) declaration of 1995 as the ASEAN Environment Year, in order to broaden the participatory process by all sectors in the field of environmental management within ASEAN.

3. While ASEAN has made good progress in regional cooperative programmes on the environment, it continues to face difficulties in respect of new and additional financial resources, technology transfer and capacity building required for the full implementation of Agenda 21. Although commitments were made at Rio with regard to these resources, these have not been forthcoming.

ASEAN's CONCERNS AND PRIORITIES

4. ASEAN expresses disappointment at the slow pace of positive developments after the UNCED especially with the implementation of Agenda 21. In this connection, ASEAN calls upon the 2nd Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD), which would have the opportunity to make substantive reviews of various sectoral and cross-sectoral clusters, to emphasize the need to operationalize Agenda 21 and support regional and national activities. In this connection, ASEAN's priorities are as follows:

I. Financial Resources:

5. The flow of financial resources needed to support and hasten the process of sustainable development would include the following:

(a) the effective implementation of commitment on financial resources made at UNCED, so as to meet incremental costs in achieving sustainable development;

(b) the immediate conclusion of the restructuring of Global Environment Facility (GEF), as called for at UNCED, including the flexibility of GEF to respond to regional activities of ASEAN in particular;

(c) preferential and concessionary terms for technology transfer, including mechanisms for financing technology acquired from the private domain; and

(d) investigation of additional, improved and innovative financial mechanisms to reflect common but differentiated responsibilities, including the support for regional facilities such as the Asian Sustainable Development Fund (ASDF).

II. Technology Transfer

6. Efforts towards enhancement of technology will have to address the following needs:

(a) facilities for the assessment of clean technologies;

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(b) means for improving access to technology for small and medium scale industries;

(c) monitoring and surveillance facilities for a wide range of processes which impact on the environment; and

(d) upgrading of rescue and emergency services as a whole and also with special reference to those fields where development and environmental considerations are most closely linked (eg. technologically sophisticated processes, biotechnology, specialized fields of engineering).

III. Capacity Building

7. Capacity building in ASEAN must address the quantity and quality of the human resource base, and the availability of increasingly specific and defined skills. Such capacity building effort must emphasize the full and meaningful participation of local counterparts. Some of these requirements would include:

(a) policy formulators and analysts who are able to examine flows from policy through implementation to assessment, including mediating and resolving environmental resource use conflict;

(b) planners and evaluators for drawing up national action plans and resource management plans for Agenda 21 implementation;

(c) Legal expertise for identification of themes linking development and environment through the existing law, for drafting environmental law, and integrating it with development objectives;

(d) economists, auditors, accountants, bankers with specific skills to link development and environmental issues eg. environmental auditing and natural resource accounting;

(e) strengthening of media network, with environmental communicators, awareness, and education builders and programme designers; and

(f) specialized skills such as environmental and chemical engineers, material scientists and technologists, biodiversity specialists such as biotechnologists.

IV. Trade and Environment

8. ASEAN has always worked towards the liberalization of trade. However, we view with serious concern attempts by some developed countries to impose unilateral trade-related conditionalities on developing countries, we consider that

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such efforts represent attempts by developed countries to utilize legitimate environmental concerns as tool for protectionism. We believe that such attempts would undermine our efforts and also those of other developing countries towards achieving sustainable development. While recognizing that trade is an important instrument to promote sustainable development, any measure to promote better environmental management must be consistent with GATT principles. ASEAN had faced constraints in this aspect, especially with the unilateral employment by other countries of eco-labelling, universal minimum wage as well as other labour standards, and other forms of trade barriers. The new economic order envisaged by UNCED has yet to materialise. ASEAN therefore calls for better trade arrangements which are supportive of environment and development. In this respect, ASEAN seeks improved capacity in assessing trade and environment linkages; and improved capacity in trade-environment policy analysis, planning and evaluation.

CONCLUSION

9. As a vibrant and viable regional entity, ASEAN seeks to play a significant role in assisting to realize the objectives of Agenda 21, particularly through intra and inter regional cooperative programmes. ASEAN has made every effort to achieve greater self reliance in environmental management. However, our desire to accelerate the process towards self-reliance and the early implementation of Agenda 21 have been set back by the lack of specialized skills, inadequate capacity, and limited financial resources. ASEAN therefore calls for the immediate and meaningful implementation of the commitments arrived at Rio. We therefore urge the forthcoming CSD Meeting to seek practical solutions to these needs as a matter of urgency.

ASEAN Strategic Plan of Action on the Environment
1994 - 1998
Executive Summary

1. The UN Conference on Human Environment held at Stockholm in 1972 provided a strong stimulus for the development of regional and sub-regional environmental programmes with a view to dealing with environmental problems in a cooperative framework. The ASEAN Environment Programme I (ASEP I), initiated in 1977 through the catalytic support of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), marked the beginning of regional environmental cooperation in ASEAN.

2. ASEP I described the extent of regional cooperation and listed the different priority areas and projects/activities on environment. On the recommendation of the ASEAN Committee on Science and Technology, the first meeting of the ASEAN Experts Group on the Environment (AEGE) was held in Jakarta in December 1978 to consider ASEP I. The First ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on the environment which was held in Manila in April 1981 endorsed ASEP I, thereby adopting its objectives and guidelines.

3. In 1981, the first ASEAN declaration on cooperation on the environment was made. It defined the broad objective of cooperation as being to "ensure the protection of the ASEAN environment and the sustainability of its natural resources so that it can sustain continued development with the aim of eradicating poverty and attaining the highest possible quality of life for the people of the ASEAN countries". It enumerated a number of policy guidelines enjoining member countries to: develop a common awareness of the environment, enact and enforce environmental protection measures, ensure that environmental considerations are taken into account in development efforts, and foster the development of environmental education programmes. Subsequently, two other environment programmes were developed and implemented, namely, ASEP II covering the period 1982-1987, and ASEP III covering the period 1988-1992.

4. The Fourth Meeting of the ASEAN Senior Officials on the Environment held in July 1993 in Bangkok, agreed that a new ASEAN Action Plan should be developed taking into account new developments following the outcome of UNCED which adopted Agenda 21. The plan should take into consideration the need to harmonize the working groups' objectives, strengthen the existing institutional arrangements, identify priority regional issues including environmentally related implications of the ASEAN Free Trade Agreement (AFTA), as well as establish ASOEN's position in international fora such as the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) and Inter-Governmental Committee on the Convention on Biological Biodiversity (ICCBD). The Meeting requested the ASEAN Secretariat to initiate action to prepare such a plan.

5. This Strategic Plan of Action on the Environment has the following five objectives:

   a. to respond to specific recommendations of Agenda 21 requiring priority action in ASEAN;

   b. to introduce policy measures and promote institutional development that encourage the integration of environmental factors in all developmental processes both at the national and regional levels;

   c. to establish long term goals on environmental quality and work towards harmonized environmental quality standards for the ASEAN region;

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d. to harmonise policy directions and enhance operational and technical cooperation on environmental matters, and undertake joint actions to address common environmental problems; and

e. to study the implications of AFTA on the environment and take steps to integrate sound trade policies with sound environmental policies.

6. To attain these objectives, the following strategic thrusts and actions will be pursued.

STRATEGY 1: Support the development of a regional framework for integrating environment and development concerns in the decision making process

7. Integrating environment and development concerns in decision making has been long recognized as a key element for promoting sustainable development. Successive ASEAN resolutions, declarations and decisions refer to this element as of vital significance. Efforts therefore have been initiated to meet these directives. But these efforts need to be consolidated and further refined if the intention is to apply them uniformly in the region. There is a necessity to develop a regional framework that will ensure the integration of environment and development concerns in the respective national decision-making processes. The elements of that framework include the following: a) institutional capability to make an integrated, forward looking and cross-sectoral approach in making decisions; b) appropriate policies and legal frameworks in place to undertake the task; c) sufficient technological base for use in decision making; and d) sound information and data base derived from monitoring and research.

Actions:

1.1 Continue support in the documentation of regional EIA experiences leading towards the harmonisation of procedures

1.2 Initiate activities that will make use of natural resource and environmental accounting studies and approaches

1.3 Establish procedures that would initiate the integration of environmental concerns in the various ASEAN programmes and activities

STRATEGY 2: Promote government-private sector interactions that lead towards the development of policies that mutually support the thrust of each sector

8. The recent decision of ASEAN to establish AFTA underscores the prevailing trend in regional trade cooperation embracing a liberal and market oriented system. This decision, however, has implications on the environment. The challenge for ASEAN is how to reinforce AFTA with sound environmental policies. In this regard, government institutions and industries would play major roles in developing sustainable societies. There should be consensus in the framing of policies that reinforce the thrust of each sector.

Actions:

2.1 Initiate studies on development of environmental and trade policies which are supportive to the principles of sustainable development

2.2 Establish mechanisms that encourage government and private sectors to adopt appropriate environmental standards backed up by sufficient economic incentives

2.3 Set up government-private sector information linkages/networks to include information on technology, expertise and facilities for environmental management

STRATEGY 3: Strengthen the knowledge and information data base on environmental matters

9. Environmentally sound and sustainable development requires that action is taken on the basis of objective, reliable and comparable environmental information. This calls for enhanced capability at national and regional levels to obtain sound environmental data, transform these data into meaningful information and share this knowledge among the various actors involved in implementing actions. This also implies that new demands will be placed on monitoring and information gathering systems on the basis of harmonised database and inter-calibration of existing monitoring systems. ASEAN should now start strengthening its capacity to collect, store and exchange information data base and knowledge on environmental matters.

Actions:

3.1 Pursue the establishment of basic environmental quality standards leading to the setting up of harmonised quality standards in the region

3.2 Identify centres of excellence for environmental R&D and eventually build them as focal points of environmental networks

3.3 Establish a mechanism for the preparation of periodic reports on the state of the region's environment

STRATEGY 4: Strengthen institutional and legal capacities to implement international agreements on environment

10. Agenda 21 identifies, as a prerequisite to global participation on sustainable development, the strength of institutional and legal capacities of national and regional entities. As environmental issues now transcend beyond regional boundaries, the need to develop these capabilities in order to implement international agreements on environment as well as effectively participate in the negotiation of new international treaties, and the review of existing ones, cannot be overemphasized. There are still many aspects of international law on sustainable development that still merit development and appropriate interpretation to make them effective and binding. ASEAN, from a regional standpoint, should strengthen its institutional capacities to implement, and its legal capacities to present, its concerns and interests in international legal discussions on the environment.

Actions:

4.1 Undertake a comparative study on the institutional structure and legislation on environmental management

4.2 Establish capacities to support regional efforts to implement international agreements and participate effectively in the negotiation of new or revised agreements

4.3 Enhance collaboration with international bodies overseeing the implementation of international agreements and cooperation

STRATEGY 5: Establish a regional framework on biological diversity conservation and sustainable utilisation of its components

11. The ASEAN region has invaluable biodiversity and abundant natural resources comprising 30% of the world's tropical forests. During the last two decades, ASEAN countries have embarked on massive economic development activities aimed at raising the standards of living of its people. Consequently, however, the impacts of these activities have affected the region's biodiversity. Thus, capacities for assessment, study and systematic observation and evaluation of biodiversity need to be reinforced at national and regional levels. An effective national and regional action supported by international cooperation is required for the *in situ* protection of the ecosystems and the *ex situ* conservation of biological and genetic resources. Similarly, the establishment of a regional centre on biodiversity conservation should be actively supported.

Actions:

5.1 Promote the development of a framework for the protection and conservation of heritage areas and endangered species

5.2 Strengthen capacities for R&D to enhance biodiversity conservation in the region

STRATEGY 6: Promote the protection and management of coastal zones and marine resources

12. The marine environment is truly an ASEAN regional heritage, a fact that has been recognized from the very beginning of ASEAN cooperation. Among the first actions by the ASEAN countries, with catalytic support from UNEP, was the adoption of an Action Plan for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment and Coastal Areas of the East Asia Region. The Southeast Asian seas are natural habitat for about 2500 species of fish and invertebrates. They provide 11% of the world's supply of marine products and are a source of livelihood for many of the region's fishermen. All ASEAN countries have extensive fishing industries. Yet, many of the major near-shore fishing areas in the region are over-fished and polluted from land-based sources and oil spills. The Straits of Malacca, for example, is one of the major shipping lanes for crude oil transport and is vulnerable to oil spills. There has been a notable increase in the occurrence of red tides which is attributed to domestic sources of pollution. This incidence poses not only a health hazard but also effects export earnings. Similarly, many mangroves are disappearing to make room for brackish water prawn farming, housing and industrial development. Coral reefs are also being degraded and require rehabilitation. Accordingly, there is an urgent need for a more coordinated, pro-active and collective action to protect ASEAN's coastal zones and marine resources.

Actions:

6.1 Improve regional marine and coastal environmental coordination

6.2 Develop a framework for the integrated management of regional coastal zones

STRATEGY 7: Promote environmentally sound management of toxic chemicals and hazardous wastes, and control of transboundary movement of hazardous wastes

13. With the continued rapid industrialization of the ASEAN economies and the trend in the transfer of highly polluting industries from developed to developing countries, the flow of toxic chemicals and dangerous products is bound to increase in the region. There is worldwide recognition that chemical contamination may result in grave damage to human health and the

environment. It is therefore necessary to have good knowledge and assessment of these risks which is a prerequisite to planning for their safe and beneficial use, recycling and disposal. However, for a great number of high volume production chemicals, even basic data for risk assessment is generally lacking. ASEAN should now initiate action on effecting a regional management guide for the safe management of toxic chemicals and hazardous waste.

Actions:

7.1 Establish regional guidelines for assessing highly pollutive industries and safe handling of potentially harmful chemicals entering the ASEAN region

7.2 Strengthen the information network on the transboundary movement of toxic chemicals and hazardous waste

STRATEGY 8: Develop a system for the promotion of environmentally sound technologies

14. Since the region is likely to face increasing challenges for controlling pollution and resource degradation, it is necessary to evolve a system for the promotion of environmentally sound technologies in the region. Pollution control techniques tend to transfer pollution from one medium to another, rather than eliminating it. Therefore, although these technologies may reduce some risks from certain factories, large scale transfer of such techniques may not prove beneficial to promoting regional environmental quality. Environmentally sound technologies are less polluting, use resources in a more sustainable manner and recycle more of their by-products, residues and waste than the traditional technologies they replace.

Actions:

8.1 Establish linkages with existing clearing houses on environmentally sound technologies

8.2 Establish mechanisms that identify end users of R&D results and encourage the participation of private sector

8.3 Strengthen linkage and coordination with other ASEAN committees such as COST doing related R&D work on the environment

8.4 Support the promotion of indigenous technology or technologies that have been adapted to regional needs

STRATEGY 9: Promote regional activities that strengthen the role of major groups in sustainable development

15. The region's ability to develop sustainably depends on the capability and capacity of its people to understand complex environment and development issues and choose the best development alternative. As people would need to have the information and expertise to understand the potential limits of the environment, institutions have the responsibility of making these information available and easily understood. The mechanisms for achieving this objective vary depending on the level of information required. Nonetheless, efforts should be made by ASOEN to bring the result of its various programmes to the ASEAN public either in formal approaches or on an informal basis. ASOEN in general should establish mechanisms that will motivate, educate, train and build capacities especially among the major groups identified in Agenda 21.

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Actions:

9.1 Support the publication of regional environmental magazine and newsletters

9.2 Strengthen regional information network and promote exchange of expertise on environmental education programmes

9.3 Develop strategic programmes of action that will strengthen the role and particip ation of major groups on environmental management and decision making

STRATEGY 10: Strengthen the coordinative mechanism for the implementation and management of regional environment programmes

16. As mandated by the Jakarta Resolution on Sustainable Development, ASOEN should facilitate the incorporation of environmental considerations into the programmes and activities of ASEAN committees. This would require a review of all ASEAN committees' activities and projects to assess their environmental implications and suggest measures for environmental protection and improvement. To be able to do this and at the same time implement programmes of this Plan of Action, ASOEN would need strong coordinative support from the ASEAN Secretariat. This will require substantial time on the part of the professional staff of the Secretariat. Since ASOEN's activities are expected to increase in the near future, support should be given to the ASEAN Secretariat to enable it to upgrade its capacities. This may mean augmenting the existing number of professional staff in the environment unit.

Actions:

10.1 Establish an operational system at the ASEAN Secretariat that could plan, monitor and facilitate the implementation of environmental projects

10.2 Source and match funding requirements for proposed projects

17. As an initial step to operationalize the recommended thrusts, the following institutional measures should be taken:

a. Strengthen the capacity of the ASEAN Secretariat as discussed in Strategy 10. The ASEAN Secretariat should play an active supportive and coordinative role in the implementation of all actions in this Plan. While it is recognized that the Secretariat may not have sufficient resources to augment its present staff, it could explore arrangements with multilateral agencies supportive to the organization to have professionals seconded to the Secretariat to help ensure the implementation of this Plan.

b. The ASOEN Working Groups should start preparing the necessary adjustments in their programmes and activities consistent with the identified strategic thrusts.

18. To implement the Plan of Action, various funding sources and schemes should be explored. These include: cost-sharing arrangements among participating ASEAN member countries for selected priority projects; the ASEAN Fund which gives priority to urgent, short-term projects of strategic or confidential nature and which are considered fundamental in building a stronger cooperative ASEAN infrastructure; the ASEAN Sub-regional Environment Trust (ASSET); and other project-related sources of funding such as ASEAN's Dialogue Partners, the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the Asia Sustainable Development Fund.

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ASEAN Strategic Plan of Action on the Environment 1994 - 1998

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Emergence of Environmental Concerns in Development

1. The UN Conference on Human Environment held at Stockholm in 1972 provided a strong stimulus for the development of regional and sub-regional environmental programmes with a view to dealing with environmental problems in a cooperative framework. The ASEAN Environment Programme I (ASEP I), initiated in 1977 through the catalytic support of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), marked the beginning of regional environmental cooperation in ASEAN. Since then, two more programmes have been developed and implemented, namely, ASEP II covering the period 1982-1987, and ASEP III covering the period 1988-1992. Together with new developments worldwide, they provide a firm basis for launching a new era of cooperation in the field of the environment in ASEAN.

2. The concept of environmental management and sustainable development was put on a firm footing with the report and recommendations of the World Commission on Environment and Development in 1987. The said report underscored two significant developments in thinking: firstly, the concept of environmental management has evolved from a localized issue to a global perspective highlighting the urgency of taking collective actions to address the ever threatening environmental issues; and secondly, it recognized the cross-sectoral nature of environmental problems which require comprehensive solutions. Agenda 21, adopted by the UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) at Rio de Janeiro in June 1992, embodies these emerging views and lays down a comprehensive blueprint for action in all areas relating to sustainable development. These world events have a profound impact on the environmental programmes at all levels: governments, private sector, NGOs and other interest groups and regional and international bodies including ASEAN.

1.2 Rationale

3. Recognizing UNCED's importance, the Fourth Meeting of the ASEAN Senior Officials on the Environment held in July 1993 in Bangkok, agreed that there was a need for developing an ASEAN Action Plan in response to its outcome. The Plan should take into account the need to harmonise the working groups' objectives, strengthen the existing institutional arrangements, identify priority regional issues including environmentally related implications of AFTA, as well as establish ASEAN's common stand in international fora such as the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) and Inter-Governmental Committee on the Convention on Biological Diversity (ICBD). The Meeting requested the ASEAN Secretariat to initiate action to prepare such a plan. This document was prepared in pursuant to this decision. The ASEAN Strategic Plan of Action on the Environment has been structured in the following manner: Section I is the introduction. Section II reviews the mandates and policy guidelines as provided by past ASEAN declarations, resolutions and decisions; assesses the existing institutional arrangements; and presents a brief summary of the implementation of ASEP III and activities of the six ASOEN Working Groups. Section III describes the new directions, objectives and strategic thrusts and the proposed actions and activities. Section IV presents the institutional and financial mechanisms to operationalize the Plan.

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2. MANDATE AND POLICY GUIDELINES

2.1 Background: Mandate for Environmental Cooperation

4. The first ASEAN declaration on cooperation on the environment, the "Manila Declaration on the ASEAN Environment of 1981" defined the broad objective of cooperation as being to "ensure the protection of the ASEAN environment and the sustainability of its natural resources so that it can sustain continued development with the aim of eradicating poverty and attaining the highest possible quality of life for the people of the ASEAN countries". It enumerated a number of policy guidelines urging member countries to: develop a common awareness of the environment, enact and enforce environmental protection measures, ensure that environmental considerations are taken into account in development efforts, and foster the development of environmental education programmes.

5. Actual cooperation on the environment started in 1977 when the ASEAN Sub-Regional Environment Programme (ASEP) was drafted with assistance from the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). ASEP I described the extent of regional cooperation and listed the different priority areas and projects/activities on environment. On the recommendation of the ASEAN Committee on Science and Technology, the first meeting of the ASEAN Experts Group on the Environment (AEGE) was held in Jakarta on 18-20 December 1978 to consider ASEP I. AEGE, which became a permanent body under ASEAN COST, has met every year since. The First ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on the Environment, which was held in Manila on 30 April 1981, endorsed ASEP I, thereby adopting its objectives and guidelines.

6. Since 1989, the status of AEGE has been upgraded and called the ASEAN Senior Officials on the Environment (ASOEN). ASOEN has assumed all the activities, tasks, responsibilities and commitments of AEGE. ASOEN meets annually and is assisted in its work by six Working Groups which meet regularly.

2.2 Policy Guidelines

7. In the Bangkok Declaration on the ASEAN Environment of November 1984, the Ministers noted with satisfaction the progress made in the implementation of ASEP I. They also noted the establishment during the past decade of environmental protection agencies in ASEAN countries and their successes in initiating environmental protection measures and in developing their respective capabilities in environmental technology. The Ministers adopted a number of policy guidelines on: environmental management, nature conservation, marine environment, urban environment, environmental education and training, environmental information systems, involvement of NGOs and other organizations, and international cooperation.

8. In the Jakarta Resolution on Sustainable Development of October 1987, the Ministers recognized that developmental processes can only be sustained if the availability of natural resources is similarly ascertained. They resolved to adopt the principle of sustainable development, focus on common resources and issues that affect the common well-being of the ASEAN people and strengthen the institutional arrangements for ASEAN cooperation on environment. They stated that the strengthened arrangement should work on facilitating the incorporation of environmental considerations into the programmes and activities of ASEAN committees, monitoring the quality of environment and natural resources to enable periodic compilation of ASEAN state of environment reports, and enhancing cooperation on environmental matters.

9. The Kuala Lumpur Accord on Environment and Development issued by the ASEAN Ministers for the Environment in June 1990 agreed to focus on initiating efforts to enhance environmental management including formulation of an ASEAN strategy and action plan for sustainable development, harmonisation of environmental quality standards as well as transboundary pollution prevention and abatement practices and promotion of the use of clean technologies. They also agreed to initiate efforts to develop and harmonise natural resources assessment and natural resource and environment accounting systems.

10. The most recent statement on the environment was embodied in the Singapore Resolution on Environment and Development, which was adopted a month after the Singapore Summit in January 1992. The Resolution spelled out the different policies and strategies that each ASEAN member country must pursue in order to advance regional cooperation for sustainable development. More specifically, the Ministers agreed that each country should:

a) introduce policy measures and promote institutional development that will encourage the integration of environmental factors in all developmental processes;

b) work closely on the inter-related issues of environment and development;

c) cooperate in setting basic environmental quality standards and regulations at national level, work towards harmonised quality standards in the region, and adopt long term quantitative goals relating to ambient air quality and river water quality; and

d) harmonise policy directions and enhance operational and technical cooperation on environmental matters, and undertake joint actions to address the anti-tropical timber campaign.

11. The last policy underscores the necessity for joint regional action to counter the anti-tropical timber campaign launched by environmental NGOs and governments in the more developed countries to stop the importation of tropical timber. The success of such campaign would have a very adverse effect on the timber and wood industries of the region.

12. The Ministers likewise agreed that regional cooperation aimed at institutional development should include: the strengthening of the institutional and technical capability of national agencies to enable them to integrate environmental considerations in their development plans; cooperation in capacity building through regional training assistance programmes, regular exchange of information, and more frequent exchange of visits among officials and experts; and provision of adequate training to public and private organizations, including NGOs, to enhance their environmental management expertise and skills.

13. On technology cooperation, the Ministers agreed to continue cooperation on environmental technology by sharing technical information, undertaking joint training and research programmes, and exchanging expertise, and to promote appropriate and environmentally sound technologies as well as encourage support for such effort from the business and public sectors. They also agreed that efforts to promote public awareness on environmental issues should be continued in order to elicit broader public participation and support.

14. In light of the UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), the Ministers also agreed to adopt an ASEAN common stand for the conference, which dealt among others, with ASEAN's position on the issues of climate change; implementation of the Montreal Protocol on Ozone Depleting Substances; protection of the oceans and seas; protection of freshwater resources; and sustainable management of all forests.

2.3 Institutional Arrangements

15. The objective of ASEAN is to promote regional cooperation to accelerate economic growth, social progress and cultural development and peace and stability, and to provide assistance to each other in the form of training and research facilities and collaborate more effectively on issues of common regional interest such as trade and industry, transportation and communication and improvement of the living standards of the people.

16. The simplified organizational structure for ASEAN cooperation in the field of the environment is shown in Figure 1. It consists of the Heads of Government, the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on the Environment (AMME), the ASEAN Senior Officials on the Environment (ASOEN), the six ASOEN Working Groups and the ASEAN Secretariat.

The Heads of Government

17. The Heads of Government of member countries are the highest authority in the ASEAN structure. In the last Meeting of the ASEAN Heads of Government held in Singapore in January 1992, it was decided that the Heads of Governments would meet formally every three years with informal meetings in-between to give guidance on ASEAN's policy directions. The Singapore Summit likewise agreed that member countries should continue to play an active part in protecting the environment by continuing its cooperation in promoting the principles of sustainable development and integrating it into all aspects of development.

ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on the Environment (AMME)

18. To promote ASEAN cooperation and ensure that the decisions of the Heads of Government relating to environment are carried out, the ASEAN Ministers for the Environment meet regularly at least once every 3 years. So far, the ASEAN Environment Ministers have met five times.

ASEAN Senior Officials on the Environment (ASOEN)

19. The ASEAN Senior Officials on the Environment (ASOEN) has the following functions and responsibilities:

a) recommend policy guidelines and, in general, provide "catalytic impetus" towards the implementation of the principles of sustainable development to ASEAN Governments and relevant ASEAN committees;

b) facilitate the incorporation of environmental considerations into the programmes and activities of ASEAN committees;

c) monitor the state of ASEAN's natural resources and the quality of the ASEAN environment;

d) promote ASEAN cooperation on regional environmental matters, focusing upon ASEAN's common seas and resources, land resources and land-based pollution, tropical forest, air quality, urban and rural pollution; and maintenance of genetic diversity;

e) promote ASEAN cooperation in international fora through a common stand for the purpose of promoting the transfer of clean technology and solving common global environmental problems, in cooperation with other government agencies, the private/business sectors, professional associations, NGOs, and other organisations; and

f) assist in obtaining financial support for ASEAN activities from within and outside ASEAN.

20. The ASOEN meets once a year to consider the reports of the Working Groups and provide operational policy guidance on the various environmental programmes being pursued.

The ASOEN Subsidiary Bodies

21. The cooperative programmes and projects of ASOEN are carried out through six Working Groups in the following areas: ASEAN Seas and Marine Environment, Environmental Economics, Nature Conservation, Environmental Management, Transboundary Pollution, and Environmental Information, Public Awareness and Education. The Working Groups meet annually.

The ASEAN Secretariat

22. The ASEAN Secretariat was established in 1976 to provide for greater efficiency in coordinating the implementation of policies, projects and activities of the various ASEAN bodies. With the growing realization that ASEAN cooperation would have to be enhanced, the Singapore Summit decided that the ASEAN Secretariat should be strengthened and provided more resources. Accordingly, the Secretary General of the Secretariat has been designated as the Secretary General of ASEAN with ministerial status and an enlarged mandate to initiate, advise, and implement ASEAN activities.

23. The ASEAN Secretariat has four Bureaus, namely, Economic Cooperation, Economic Research, Functional Cooperation and General Affairs, each headed by a Director. Issues on the environment fall under the purview of the Functional Cooperation Bureau along with science and technology, culture and information, social development, and drug abuse prevention. With the expected increase in the coordinative activities of the Bureau, especially in the field of environment, there is need to further strengthen its present professional capabilities.

2.4 Brief Review of ASEP III

24. ASEP III, covering the period 1988-1992, succeeded ASEP II and continued some of the latter's projects as well as goals. It had the following overall objective: to promote the proper management of the ASEAN environment so that it could sustain continued economic development while maintaining a high quality of life for the people of the ASEAN countries. This objective was to be achieved by strengthening the institutional framework and organisational structure of ASEAN cooperation on the environment.

25. Thus, ASEP III adopted the following policy guidelines:

a) the promotion of cooperation on the environment among member countries, especially in identified priority areas;

b) integration of the environmental dimension into regional and national development planning and implementation;

c) strengthening of regional and national institutions to enhance their capability to implement environmental programmes and projects; and

d) cooperation with other countries and with international agencies for the purpose of promoting the transfer of technology and sharing experiences in the management and solution of environmental problems.

28. Included under ASEP III were 17 programme goals and 60 regional projects, divided, as in ASEP I and ASEP II, into six priority programme areas as follows:

a) Environmental management - This area dealt with the overall and integrated approach to the problems of the environment and the use of management tools such as environmental impact assessment and the application of advanced technologies, such as remote sensing, to solve these problems or at least mitigate their adverse impacts. It recognized the interdependence between environment and development and that one could not be sustained without the other.

b) Nature conservation and terrestrial ecosystems - This area derived its urgency from the abundance of natural resources in the region and the need to conserve them in the face of rapid economic growth in ASEAN, particularly in the manufacturing sector, but to a lesser extent also in the agricultural sector. Such development, while it had undoubtedly resulted in increased output and higher standards of living in ASEAN, had also exerted tremendous pressure on the region's forest, marine, water and other resources. Hence, it emphasized on the need for a rational and integrated approach to development and conservation.

c) Industry and environment - Rapid industrialization in ASEAN, with its concommitant increase in energy consumption, has not only strained the region's natural resources but has also contributed to the growing pollution problem, particularly in the urban areas. Some of the major products in the region such as palm oil, rubber and sugar, involve manufacturing processes that release considerable amounts of pollutive substances into the atmosphere. Collaboration among ASEAN member countries and between ASEAN and its Dialogue Partners was therefore necessary in order to promote intra-ASEAN transfer and development of anti-pollution technology and the transfer of clean technology from the Dialogue Partners to ASEAN.

d) Urban environment - Related to, but separate from, the immediately preceding priority area was urban environment. Rapid population growth as well as uncontrolled migration from the rural to the urban areas has resulted to housing and traffic congestion, noise, dust, inadequate water and sewerage systems as well as garbage disposal facilities, and related urban problems. This situation in most urban areas in ASEAN was the rationale for the inclusion of urban environment as a fourth priority area of ASEAN cooperation.

e) Marine environment - This area was a recognition of the fact that the marine environment was under serious stress in ASEAN, whether it was for shipbuilding in Singapore, oil exploration and extraction in Brunei, or fishing in the Philippines, Malaysia and Thailand. ASEAN cooperation was (and still is) necessary for the development, protection and rational exploitation of the region's marine resources and coastal areas.

f) Environmental Education, Training and Information - Ultimately, the most sound and solid basis for the protection of the environment and the conservation or rational exploitation of resources are people who are aware of the possible negative environmental implications of their actuation, not only for the present generation but for future generations as well, hence the importance of this area of cooperation.

27. Projects were selected and included in the above programmes on the basis of their relevance, regional character and relation to other projects. They were also selected on the basis of their being "interactive, integrative, and mutually supportive" of each other.

28. To further rank which projects could be funded under ASEP III, very high priority projects were subsequently identified using these criteria:

a) the project met the goal of sustainable development;
b) availability of project funding;
c) project did not require excessive resources;
d) project was carried over from ASEP II; and
e) project was goal-oriented as specified in ASEP III.

29. On this basis, twelve very high priority projects were selected. The list appears as Table 1.

30. ASEP III set as its target to implement 90% or more of its 60 projects, with at least 60% of them to be completed within the planning cycle 1988-1992. When completed, the 60 projects under ASEP III were expected to yield the following physical outputs:

- five guidelines;
- two manuals;
- one textbook;
- six management plans; and
- three sets of teaching/visual aids.

31. Other expected outputs include the conduct of thirteen regional training courses and numerous reports to be generated by the various pilot-demonstration projects and EIA studies.

32. A number of projects carried over from ASEP II were completed under ASEP III, namely:

a) Environmental Impact Study on Coal Fired Power Plants (renamed Programme Assessment of the Environmental Impact of Coal-Fired based Power Plants);

b) Technology Transfer on the Treatment of Effluent from Palm Oil and Rubber Industries;

c) Anti-pollution Control and Management in Fuel Gas Desulphurization and Control in ASEAN Region;

d) Development of Cooperative Action for Oil Pollution Combat;

e) Seminar on Toxic and Hazardous Waste; and

f) Regional Programme for the Training of Trainers on Environmental Education in the ASEAN Region.

2.5 Assessment of the Achievements

33. A review of ASEAN's environmental collaborative efforts indicates that ASOEN has substantially accomplished its mandate. For one, the development and evolution of ASEP Programmes provided a solid basis and further enhanced regional environmental cooperation. Perhaps the most significant contribution of the previous programmes was the maturing of the environmental agencies in the respective ASEAN countries. These accomplishments should be sustained and further developed in order to make them more attuned to the times.

34. Much work, however, would have to be done in the design, selection and prioritisation of programmes and projects as most of the previous activities were 'stand-alone' projects which have not fully contributed to long term ASEAN objectives. Partly contributory to the short-term nature of previous projects was the inadequacy of financing to support ASOEN's activities and also institutional deficiencies. As there was inadequate follow up mechanisms in the development of projects, proposals had a tendency to have long gestation periods. These shortcomings must be addressed by ASOEN through this Strategic Plan of Action on Environment. Focus will have to be on activities which are truly regional in character and can contribute to the long-term overall objectives of ASEAN.

3 NEW DIRECTIONS, OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES

3.1 New Directions

3.1.1 ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA)

35. The January 1992 Meeting of the ASEAN Heads of Government in Singapore decided to establish an ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA) over the next 15 years. AFTA will cover trade in manufactures, including capital goods and processed agricultural products. A Common Effective Preferential Tariff (CEPT) scheme will be established leading to a progressive reduction of tariffs to a 0-5 percent level by the year 2008. There are two programmes of tariff reduction under the CEPT Scheme: the fast track programme which targets the reduction of tariffs to 0-5 percent within 7 to 10 years; and the normal track programme which targets tariff reduction to 0-5 within 10 to 15 years. The 15 groups of commodities included in the fast track programme are: vegetable oils, cement, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, fertilizers, plastics, rubber products, leather products, paper pulp, textiles, ceramics and glass products, gems and jewellery, copper cathodes, electronics, and wooden and rattan furniture.

36. The link between international trade and sustainable development, where the latter is understood as development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs, is not always obvious. But there is such a link, namely, the common concern for improving resource allocation and quality of life.

37. Reduced tariff rates would increase ASEAN's competitiveness as a production base and stimulate intra-ASEAN trade in the 15 commodity groups. Increased trade would, in turn, improve the allocation of resources and increase output, employment and incomes.

38. But AFTA may not come as an unmixed blessing. Among the 15 commodities in the fast track, whose rates are to be reduced, are highly pollutive and/or natural resource consuming industries -- to the former belong chemicals, fertilizers, plastics, cement, paper and pulp, and leather and rubber products, and to the latter belong copper cathodes and wooden and rattan furniture. To the extent that increased intra-ASEAN trade in these commodities will lead to the more intensive exploitation of resources and/or the release of greater quantities of pollutants into the atmosphere as a result of increased manufacturing activities, to that extent the implementation of AFTA may not advance the goal of environmentally sound and sustainable development to which ASEAN also aspires.

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39. Indeed, there is a potential development dilemma that needs to be carefully addressed. On the one hand, the goal of sustainable development requires that poverty - which, despite progress made during the past two decades, remains a problem in ASEAN-- be reduced if not eradicated. Persistent poverty is one of the major causes of environmental degradation, as it increases pressure on natural resources (e.g. through deforestation, cultivation of marginal lands) and strains to limit the carrying capacity of urban ecosystems. Increased trade, through the higher incomes and greater employment that it provides, is a potentially powerful poverty-reduction measure, as the experience of the Newly Industrialized Economies (NIC) would show. However, where such trade involves natural resources either as traded goods or as inputs to manufacturing industries, it carries with it the danger of rapid resource depletion and increased pollution, and hence an unsustainable development.

40. How ASEAN policy-makers will resolve this dilemma will determine how the next generation will judge the recent decision to implement AFTA. The solution lies in translating the principle of environmentally sound and sustainable development into concrete policies and implementable programmes, inter alia, the application of environmental planning and assessment techniques and use of low- and non-waste manufacturing technologies.

3.1.2 ASEAN Common Stand on UNCED

41. During the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on the Environment in Singapore in 1992, ASEAN declared its common stand on UNCED. The declaration called for: urgent measures to combat climate change; immediate implementation of the Montreal Protocol Interim Multilateral Fund; protection of the ecosystems of oceans and seas from pollution; greater efforts to protect freshwater resources and ensure access for all people; sustainable management of all forests; conservation of biological diversity, support for the Basel Convention on the Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal; and support for the objective of the Prior-Informed-Consent (PIC) system under the Amended London Guidelines for the Exchange of Information on Banned or Severely Restricted Chemicals in International Trade.

42. To achieve the above, ASEAN has called for new and additional financial resources to meet the incremental cost of protecting the global environment; and for more funding for implementing sustainable development policies at the regional and national levels to be provided by developed countries. The establishment of basic environmental protection is also required. Appropriate technologies to achieve environmental standards must be identified and all means, financial as well as legal, to overcome patent laws should be made available to enable the transfer of such technologies.

3.1.3 Agenda 21 Programme Areas Relevant to ASEAN

43. Agenda 21 is an action plan for the 1990s and into the 21st Century. It reflects a global consensus and political commitment at the highest level in the government on development and environment cooperation and is intended to serve as basis for global partnership. Its successful implementation rests with the governments. However, international and regional cooperation and efforts are necessary to support its national implementation. It has been suggested that the broadest public participation and the active involvement of non-governmental organizations are essential prerequisites to these efforts.

44. Agenda 21 covers 115 programme areas. Since it is a distilled wisdom of all the governments, and the ASEAN region embodies a wide spectrum of environment and development issues, it is understandable that almost all the programme areas will have some relevance to ASEAN. It is ,however, impossible to capture all the issues and dimensions of Agenda 21 in this document. Hence Table 2 summarizes the more relevant chapters of Agenda 21 in the context of ASEAN collaboration.

3.2 Objectives

45. This Strategic Plan of Action on the Environment has the following five objectives:

a) to respond to specific recommendations of Agenda 21 requiring priority action in ASEAN;

b) to introduce policy measures and promote institutional development that encourage the integration of environmental factors in all developmental processes both at the national and regional levels;

c) to establish long term goals on environmental quality and work towards harmonised environmental quality standards for the ASEAN region;

d) to harmonise policy directions and enhance operational and technical cooperation on environmental matters, and undertake joint actions to address common environmental problems; and

e) to study the implications of AFTA on the environment and take steps to integrate sound trade policies with sound environmental policies.

3.3 Strategic Thrusts

46. To attain the objectives, the following strategies and actions will be pursued:

Strategy 1: Support the development of a regional framework for integrating environment and development concerns in the decision making process

47. Integrating environment and development concerns in decision making has been long recognized as a key element for promoting sustainable development. Successive ASEAN resolutions, declarations and decisions refer to this element as of vital significance. Efforts therefore have been initiated to meet these directives. But these efforts need to be consolidated and further refined if the intention is to apply them uniformly in the region. There is a necessity to develop a regional framework that will ensure the integration of environment and development concerns in the respective national decision-making processes. The elements of that framework include the following: a) institutional capability to make an integrated, forward looking and cross-sectoral approach in making decisions; b) appropriate policies and legal frameworks in place to undertake the task; c) sufficient technological base for use in decision making; and d) sound information and data base derived from monitoring and research.

Actions:

1.1 Continue support in the documentation of regional EIA experiences leading towards the harmonisation of procedures

48. Increasing efforts are being made by all countries to strengthen environmental impact assessment procedures and practices. Institutional and legislative frameworks have also been improved. There is a need to continue this process. Exchange of information and experience among ASEAN could provide a solid foundation for further work. With the launching of AFTA and the implementation of the Common Effective Preferential Tariff (CEPT) Scheme and the improved prospects for attracting greater investment flows in the region as a whole, increasing efforts should

be focused on the harmonisation of procedures in EIA. It would entail studies on the EIA procedures in different countries, identifying common and conflicting issues, proposing principles of harmonisation and coming up with a harmonised framework on EIA.

Responsible Working Unit: Environmental Management

1.2 Initiate activities that will make use of natural resource and environmental accounting studies and approaches

49. In recent years, governments and international organizations have made increasing efforts to collect environmental data. Most of these data are given in physical terms and some in monetary values. However, the gap between environmental data and macro-economic accounting systems remains almost unchanged. An important issue is how to expand existing systems of national economic accounts in order to integrate environmental and social dimensions in the accounting framework, including the use of satellite systems for natural resources. The resulting system of Integrated Natural Resources and Environment Accounting (INREA) to be established in ASEAN countries should be seen as complementing the existing national income accounting practices. INREA would be designed to play an integral part in national decision-making process. Some work in this field are being done in Indonesia and the Philippines. Based on international efforts and work done in ASEAN countries, guidelines may be prepared. These guidelines may be used for undertaking sectoral pilot studies in ASEAN countries and the system may be refined as necessary for wider application.

Responsible Working Unit: Environmental Economics

1.3 Establish procedures that would initiate the integration of environmental concerns in the various ASEAN programmes and activities

50. Another important issue in this area is the integration of environmental concerns in the programmes and activities of ASEAN. While it would be desirable to integrate environmental dimensions in the various ASEAN committees and other bodies, it may be difficult at this stage to undertake such a task, because of the complexity of the organisational structure and the limited technical and infrastructural support available from the ASEAN Secretariat.

51. It may, however, be possible to examine proposed projects and activities for the purpose of integrating environmental concerns. The mechanism for such an integration should be developed. One such mechanism could be the examination of relevant project proposals by the relevant sections of the ASEAN Secretariat with a view to providing inputs on environmental dimensions and likely mitigating measures. In any case, guidelines for integration of environmental concerns into ASEAN's activities will have to be prepared.

Responsible Working Units: Environmental Management

Strategy 2: Promote government-private sector interactions that lead towards the development of policies that mutually support the thrust of each sector

52. The recent decision of ASEAN to establish AFTA underscores the prevailing trend in regional trade cooperation embracing a liberal and market oriented system. The theory is that regional trade cooperation promotes efficiency in the allocation of resources and provides economies of scale and competition which induce increase in output, income and standard of living. Prior to AFTA, the region registered one of the highest GDP growth performance globally. The creation of AFTA will further accelerate this trend. The challenge ASEAN faces now is how to

reinforce the AFTA decision with mutually supportive environmental policies. In this regard, government institutions and industries would play major roles in developing sustainable societies. There should be consensus in the framing of policies that reinforce the thrust of each sector.

Actions:

2.1 Initiate studies on development of environmental and trade policies which are supportive to the principles of sustainable development

53. The implications of AFTA on sustainable development have already been cited. AFTA should seek to promote an open and non-discriminatory trading system that is consistent with the goals of sustainable development. Improved market access for ASEAN's export, in conjunction with sound macro-economic and environmental policies, should result in positive environmental impacts; and environment and trade policies should be made mutually supportive.

54. The commodity sector dominates the economies of ASEAN countries in terms of production, employment and export earnings. An important feature of the world commodity trade in the 1980s was the prevalence of very low and declining real prices for ASEAN commodities in international markets resulting in increased exploitation of natural resources to maintain commodity export earnings for some countries. The ability of these countries to mobilize, through international trade, the resources needed to finance investments required for sustainable development may be impaired by this development and by tariff and non-tariff barriers. The international trading environment has been affected by a number of regional developments that have created new challenges, such as the establishment of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and the Single European Market (SEM). These developments will have profound impact on development and environment in the ASEAN countries.

55. Therefore, studies should be initiated to better understand the relationship between trade and environment for the promotion of sustainable development in the ASEAN region. This should be reinforced with the establishment of a platform for dialogue between trade, investment, development and environment sectors of the ASEAN region. ASEAN has already developed excellent cooperation with the private sector through the ASEAN Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ASEAN-CCI), the Business Council for Sustainable Development (BCSD), and the implementation of the ASEAN-US Environmental Improvement Programme (EIP).

Responsible Working Unit: Environmental Economics

2.2 Establish mechanisms that encourage government and private sectors to adopt appropriate environmental standards backed up by sufficient economic incentives

56. The responsibility for ensuring industrialization that adheres to sustainable development principles rests between institutions, as regulators, managers and economic policy framers, and industry, as the implementor and principal source of technological know-how. These roles must be respected and supported by each other. Governments, as an institution, must establish environmental goals that do not retard growth but create the right climate that encourages industry to comply. The standards, while it can be updated regularly, should allow industry to seek the best practicable environmental alternative which technology can provide. This approach can be enhanced by reviewing existing policies and introducing incentives to industries and businesses that

ensure sustainable industrial processes, such as the promotion on the use of cleaner technologies, and waste minimization techniques, to mention a few. On the part of the industry, there should be commitment to sustainability and environmental excellence. They should show the public their desire to comply with the standards of environmental performance which they themselves could set voluntarily.

Responsible Working Unit: Environmental Economics

2.3 Set up government-private sector information linkages/networks to include information on technology, expertise and facilities for environmental management

57. Access to information on technology and expertise is crucial if industry is to comply with environmental standards. While there is no dearth of information that could be used by industry, the availability of that information and its quality are impediments that hinder the selection of appropriate alternatives to sustainable industrial processes. The government and private sector should collaborate in setting up information networks that can make the needed information readily available. The academic and the scientific community could be harnessed to play a role in this endeavor.

Responsible Working Unit: Environmental Information, Public Awareness and Education

Strategy 3: Strengthen the knowledge and information data base on environmental matters

58. Environmentally sound and sustainable development requires that action is taken on the basis of objective, reliable and comparable environmental information. This calls for enhanced capability at national and regional levels to obtain sound environmental data, transform these data into meaningful information and share this knowledge among the various actors involved in implementing actions. This also implies that new demands will be placed on monitoring and information gathering systems on the basis of harmonized database and inter-calibration of existing monitoring systems. There is an effort by UNEP, through its Global Resource Information Database (GRID), to open a subregional window on environmental information collection and dissemination. ASEAN should take advantage of this opportunity and coordinate with UNEP in setting up this system with information stored at the ASEAN Secretariat and disseminated to member countries.

Actions:

3.1 Pursue the establishment of basic environmental quality standards leading to the setting up of harmonised quality standards in the region

59. The indicators of environmental quality could serve as good indices or guideposts for the state of the environment. With AFTA and the implementation of the CEPT, it is likely that industrialization in the ASEAN region will accelerate. If the environmental standards for air and water quality continue to be widely different in the region, it may lead to development of pollution havens or hot-spots. Anticipating the most likely impact of unsustainable industrialization, it may be prudent to already consider the establishment of long term goals for ambient air and water quality (both river and coastal). The major vehicle for achieving this will be the harmonisation of environmental quality standards in the region. This activity entails a substantial amount of capacity building through: training and the building up of an extensive network of monitoring stations; inventory of polluting sources; identification of the most pollutive industries; economic and industrial growth modeling; and institution building to enable exchange of information among member countries.

Responsible Working Unit: Environmental Management

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3.2 Identify centres of excellence for environmental R&D and eventually build them as focal points of environmental networks

60. Support should be given to the identification of centres of excellence undertaking environmental research and development (R&D) activities. This can be done by assessing the capacities and capabilities of existing scientific and research institutions dealing with environmental work and ascertaining their competencies. Once determined, programmes could be designed to upgrade these institutions with a view to eventually establishing them as focal points or environmental networks which could provide basic environmental information, training of human resources and strategic environmental research studies for policy formulation.

Responsible Working Unit: Environmental Management

3.3 Establish a mechanism for the preparation of periodic reports on the state of the region's environment

61. Periodic environmental performance reviews would help in promoting policy dialogue and exchange of information on national approaches and experiences in improving collective and individual performance regarding the attainment of national and regional goals vis-a-vis the international agreements. It could also assist in the identification of priority activities for regional action, help in strengthening national and regional capabilities for environmental management and policy evaluation, and play a useful role in monitoring and assessing regional and national environmental quality. The preparation of this report should be seen in the light of the requested submission of national reports by the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD).

Responsible Working Units: Environmental Information, Public Awareness and Education

Strategy 4: Strengthen institutional and legal capacities to implement international agreements on environment

62. Agenda 21, identifies as a prerequisite to global participation on sustainable development, the strength of institutional and legal capacities of national and regional entities. As environmental issues now transcend beyond regional boundaries, the need to develop these capabilities in order to implement international agreements on environment as well as effectively participate in the negotiation of new international treaties and the review of existing ones, cannot be overemphasized. There are still many aspects of international law on sustainable development that merit development and appropriate interpretation to make them effective and binding. ASEAN, from a regional standpoint, should strengthen its institutional capacities to implement and its legal capacities to present its concerns and interests in international legal discussions on the environment.

Actions:

4.1 Undertake a comparative study on institutional structures and legislations on environmental management

63. There have been previous efforts to document and compile the various legislations of ASEAN relating to the environment. This documentation should be consolidated and be further expanded to cover the undertaking of a comparative study on the various institutional structures and legislations on environmental administration. ASOEN should seek financial support and assistance to undertake and complete this project.

Responsible Working Units: Environmental Management

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4.2 Establish capacities to support regional efforts to implement international agreements and participate effectively in the negotiation of new or revised agreements

64. There are a large number of international environmental treaties and conventions aimed at protecting the global commons, such as marine environment, biodiversity and the atmosphere, which ASEAN member countries have signed. Its effective implementation, however, is hampered owing to the various administrative, technical, economic and financial obstacles within ASEAN. While the individual countries are encouraged to study the implications of ratification, there may be a need to look into the regional ramifications of the treaties. ASOEN should build its capacities that would enable it to participate effectively in the negotiation of new or revised agreements.

Responsible Working Units: All Working Groups

4.3 Enhance collaboration with international bodies overseeing the implemention of international agreements and cooperation

65. As countries in the region implement the various international agreements, they are likewise becoming actively involved in international discussions such as in APEC and OECD. Hence, ASEAN needs to promote greater regional visibility with concerned international bodies or organizations. This could be achieved by strengthening its linkages and networking with these institutions and actively participate in activities that have relevance to the region. Depending on how ASEAN would be invited in these collaborative discussions, there could be a need to present a common ASEAN stand to enhance its regional position.

Responsible Working Units: All Working Groups

Strategy 5: Establish a regional framework on biological diversity conservation and sustainable utilization of its components

66. The ASEAN region has invaluable biodiversity and abundant natural resources comprising 30% of the world's tropical forests. During the last two decades, ASEAN countries have embarked on massive economic development activities aimed at raising the standards of living of its people. Consequently, however, the impacts of these activities have affected the region's biodiversity. Thus, capacities for assessment, study and systematic observation and evaluation of biodiversity need to be reinforced at national and regional levels. An effective national and regional action supported by international cooperation is required for the in situ protection of the ecosystems and the ex situ conservation of biological and genetic resources. Similarly, the establishment of a regional center on biodiversity conservation should be actively supported.

Actions:

5.1 Promote the development of a framework for the protection and conservation of heritage areas and endangered species

67. ASEAN has long recognized the importance of nature and biodiversity, and thus has designated areas that are to be preserved as national parks, nature reserves and heritage areas. Despite these management and monitoring efforts, the threat to these identified areas persists owing to continued habitat destruction, overharvesting, pollution and threats posed by the introduction of exotic species (both plants and animals) which either replaces or competes with the endemic species. The absence of a regional framework for the protection and conservation of

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heritage areas and endangered species, only exacerbates the situation as management efforts are left to individual member countries. There is a need to develop a framework for the protection of these areas and species so as to ensure that conservation approaches are rationalized.

Responsible Working Unit: Nature Conservation

5.2 Strengthen capacities for R&D to enhance biodiversity conservation in the region

68. Supportive to the identification of areas designated for biological diversity conservation are efforts to improve the knowledge and understanding of species found in these areas. It is accepted that knowledge on the status and distribution of many animal and plant species is still poor and inadequate. As a result, effective conservation measures cannot be implemented. ASOEN should invest in this field and seek assistance from the international community both in public and private sectors. Strong support to systematic and taxonomic research which ranges from undertaking surveys and inventories to monitoring wildlife movement and control should be pursued by the region.

Responsible Working Unit: Nature Conservation

Strategy 6: Promote the protection and management of coastal zones and marine resources

69. The marine environment is truly an ASEAN regional heritage, a fact that has been recognized from the very beginning of ASEAN cooperation. Among the first actions by the ASEAN countries, with catalytic support from UNEP, was the adoption of an Action Plan for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment and Coastal Areas of the East Asia Region. The Southeast Asian seas are natural habitat for 2500 species of fish and invertebrates. They provide 11% of the world's supply of marine products and source of livelihood for many of the region's fishermen. All ASEAN countries have extensive fishing industries. Yet, many of the major near-shore fishing areas in the region are over-fished and polluted from land based sources and oil spills. The Straits of Malacca, for example, is one of the major shipping lanes for crude oil transport and is vulnerable to oil spills. There has been a notable increase in the occurrence of red tides which is attributed to domestic sources of pollution. This incidence poses not only a health hazard but also affects export earnings. Similarly, many mangroves are disappearing to make room for brackish water prawn farming, housing and industrial development. Coral reefs are also being degraded and require rehabilitation. Accordingly, there is an urgent need for a more coordinated, pro active and collective action to protect ASEAN's coastal zones and marine resources.

Actions:

6.1 Improve regional marine and coastal environmental coordination

70. Cooperation among the ASEAN countries in the field of marine science and marine environments have been carried out through three distinct regional bodies, namely, the Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA), the ASOEN Working Group on ASEAN Seas and Marine Environment (WGASME) and the COST Sub-committee on Marine Science (SCMS). While the WGASME and the SCMS are official ASEAN bodies, the latter being under the purview of the ASEAN Committee on Science and Technology (COST), COBSEA comes under the purview of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). There is a need to streamline these cooperative mechanisms, as they create unnecessary overlaps and confusion and fritter away scarce technical and financial resources.

Responsible Working Units: ASEAN Seas and Marine Environment
Nature Conservation

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6.2 Develop a framework for the integrated management of regional coastal zones

71. It is recognized that while several programmes have been developed on a bilateral and regional basis to protect and manage coastal zones in the region, these developments are not tied to any framework that could integrate its approaches on a regional basis. The impacts, therefore, of these programmes have been localized and its regional benefits have not been fully appreciated or felt. In order to enhance the effects of these activities, ASOEN could initiate the development of a framework for the integrated management of regional coastal zones. This framework could serve as a guide in the development of the respective coastal zone management interventions by member countries.

Responsible Working Units: ASEAN Seas and Marine Environment
Nature Conservation

Strategy 7: Promote environmentally sound management of toxic chemicals and hazardous wastes, and control of transboundary movement of hazardous wastes

72. With the continued rapid industrialization of the ASEAN economies and the trend in the transfer of highly polluting industries, the flow of toxic chemicals and dangerous products is bound to increase in the region. There is worldwide recognition that chemical contamination may result in grave damage to human health and the environment. It is therefore necessary to have good knowledge and assessment of these risks which is a prerequisite to planning for their safe and beneficial use, recycling and disposal. However, for a great number of high volume production chemicals, even basic data for risk assessment are generally lacking. ASEAN should now initiate action on effecting a regional management guide for the environmentally sound management of toxic chemicals and hazardous wastes.

Actions:

7.1 Establish regional guidelines for assessing highly pollutive industries and safe handling of potentially harmful chemicals entering the ASEAN region

73. The information exchange on toxic chemicals is of particular importance. In this regard, the UNEP London Guidelines for the Exchange of Information on Chemicals in International Trade is a useful instrument, in particular those relating to the information on banned and severely restricted chemicals. Work carried out under the International Register of Potentially Toxic Chemicals (IRPTC) and the International Programme on Chemical Safety (IPCS) should also be used. However, there is a need for greater national vigilance in controlling the relocation of toxic chemical industries into the ASEAN region. There may be a case for developing a regional guideline on assessing highly polluting industries and potentially harmful chemicals entering ASEAN.

Responsible Working Unit: Transboundary Pollution

7.2 Strengthen the information network on the transboundary movement of toxic chemicals and hazardous waste

74. There has been a notable achievement in this area within the ASEAN region over the past few years as evidenced by a number of cases relating to intra-ASEAN transboundary movement of hazardous waste. The identification of focal points helped in monitoring and regulating the movement of hazardous waste. This network should be further strengthened as movement of these substances is expected to increase. A regional protocol for the movement of toxic chemicals and hazardous substances consistent with the provision of the Basel Convention could be established.

Responsible Working Unit: Transboundary Pollution

Strategy 8: Develop a system for the promotion of environmentally sound technologies

75. Since the region is likely to face increasing challenges for controlling pollution and resource degradation, it is necessary to evolve a system for the promotion of environmentally sound technologies in the region. Pollution control techniques tend to transfer pollution from one medium to another, rather than eliminating it. Therefore, although these technologies may reduce some risks from certain factories, large scale transfer of such techniques may not prove beneficial to promoting regional environmental quality. Environmentally sound technologies are less polluting, use resources in a more sustainable manner, and recycle more of their by-products, residues and waste than the traditional technologies they replace.

Actions:

8.1 Establish linkages with existing clearing houses on environmentally sound technologies

76. There is currently no comprehensive, independent and reliable mechanism for obtaining information on technologies which can help governments evaluate environmental impacts of investments. Although activities have been initiated to set up international clearing houses for identifying dirty technologies or preventing their transfer, its network has not yet been fully operationalized. Under these circumstances, investors present their own technologies as environmentally advanced, even though these may be discredited in other countries. ASOEN should therefore take the initiative in linking with these clearing houses on environmentally sound technologies available in the market so as to enable member countries to choose which appropriate technologies can be allowed in the region.

Responsible Working Unit: Environmental Information, Public Awareness and Education

8.2 Establish mechanisms that identify end users of R&D results and encourage the participation of private sector

77. These actions have bearing on the efforts of the ASEAN-COST to identify end-users of R&D outputs and to entice private sector involvement. Researches on environmental or environmentally friendly technologies may also be considered as part of the science and technology agenda. ASOEN through its Working Groups in collaboration with COST, should initiate discussions with industry and solicit their support to co-finance environmental R&D projects that have potential for commercialization.

Responsible Working Unit: Environmental Information, Public Awareness and Education

8.3 Strengthen linkage and coordination with other ASEAN committees such as COST doing related R&D work on the environment

78. As there are common interests between COST and ASOEN, these two bodies of ASEAN should interact more often to mutually support its respective thrusts. The Working Groups and Sub-committees should develop mechanisms to jointly pursue complementary programmes which would benefit ASEAN as a whole.

Responsible Working Unit: Environmental Information, Public Awareness and Education

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8.4 Support the promotion of indigenous technologies or technologies that have been adapted to regional needs

78. There are existing environmentally friendly technologies utilized by industry which have been locally adapted from foreign technologies or indigenously developed. Its widespread application, however, is hampered by the inadequacy of support in promoting its use. ASOEN in collaboration with COST may develop mechanisms whereby these technologies can be made available to the regional market.

Responsible Working Unit: Environmental Information, Public Awareness and Education
Environmental Management

Strategy 8: Promote regional activities that strengthen the role of major groups in sustainable development

80. The region's ability to develop sustainably depends on the capability and capacity of its people to understand complex environment and development issues and to choose the best development alternative. As people would need to have the information and expertise to understand the potential limits of the environment, institutions have the responsibility of making these information available and easily understood. The mechanisms for achieving this objective vary depending on the level of information required. Nonetheless, efforts should be made by ASOEN to bring the result of its various programmes to the ASEAN public either through formal approaches or on an informal basis. ASOEN should establish mechanisms that will motivate, educate, train and build capacities especially among the identified major groups under Agenda 21.

Actions:

9.1 Support the publication of regional environmental magazines and newsletters

81. There is a need to increase public sensitivity to environment and development issues and involvement in finding solutions to environmental problems. Further, the sense of personal environmental responsibility and the desire for greater involvement and commitment need to be fostered towards sustainable development. Increased public awareness and participation in environmental decision making are important for the success of environmental policies. It is therefore necessary to make available accurate and authentic information on ASEAN environment and development issues to all sectors of the society. This can be achieved through the regular publication of regional newsletters and information materials. The ASEAN Secretariat should be provided with the needed resource to enable it to collect and edit articles, monographs and papers for the ASEAN Environment Newsletter to be issued on a bi-annual basis.

Responsible Working Unit: Environmental Information, Public Awareness and Education

9.2 Strengthen regional information network and promote exchange of expertise on environmental education programmes

82. Environmental education is very important in sensitizing people, particularly students, as it helps in developing the right environmental ethic and building environmentally responsive and responsible society. There should be initiatives taken to share environmental education modules that have been developed at the national levels to enrich the knowledge of environmental educators and trainers in the region. To enhance their capabilities exchange programme of environmental education, experts could be established. ASOEN may consider tapping potential public and private institutions who have expressed willingness to support this endeavor.

Responsible Working Unit: Environmental Information, Public Awareness and Education

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9.3 Develop strategic programmes of action that will strengthen the role and participation of major groups on environmental management and decision making

83. As recommended in Agenda 21, the region should evolve a strategy for effectively involving NGO's, local bodies and other sectors in promoting sustainable development. As a start, ASOEN should consider representation of some of the major groups in a number of its programmes.

Responsible Working Units: All Working Groups

Strategy 10: Strengthen the coordinative mechanism for the implementation and management of regional environment programmes

84. As mandated by the Jakarta Resolution on Sustainable Development, ASOEN should facilitate the incorporation of environmental considerations into the programmes and activities of ASEAN committees. This would require a review of all ASEAN committees' activities and projects to assess their environmental implications and suggest measures for environmental protection and improvement. To be able to do this and at the same time implement programmes of this Strategic Plan of Action on Environment, ASOEN would need strong coordinative support from the ASEAN Secretariat. This will require substantial time on the part of the professional staff of the Secretariat. Since ASOEN's activities are expected to increase in the near future, support should be given to the ASEAN Secretariat to enable it to upgrade its capacities. This may mean augmenting the existing number of professional staff in the Environment Unit.

Actions:

10.1 Establish an operational system at the ASEAN Secretariat for planning, monitoring and facilitation of the implementation of environmental projects

85. While the Plan of Action identifies several programme areas, projects will need to be developed in all areas. The various Working Groups have already done some work in this direction, but these will have to be refined into a harmonized framework. With the expansion of mandate of the ASEAN Secretariat, these projects will have to be monitored and some coordinated and implemented by the Secretariat. This will require strengthened in-house project management capability.

Responsible Working Unit: ASEAN Secretariat

10.2 Source and match funding requirements for proposed projects

86. Agenda 21 recognizes that very large investments are needed to implement its sustainable development programmes. Since financial resources are scarce, it is imperative that a set of criteria for selecting and prioritizing programme areas and projects under this plan be developed. It is noted that under ASEP III a set of criteria was used to rank projects. There may be a need for ASOEN to review this ranking criteria. This would also mean that the necessary network and linkages with financing institutions and sectors should be developed and enhanced.

Responsible Working Unit: ASEAN Secretariat

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4 INSTITUTIONAL AND FINANCIAL MECHANISMS

4.1 Institutional Requirement

87. Ten strategic thrusts and twenty-seven actions have been identified. Many of these actions have strong inter-linkages and the activities should be implemented in close coordination with one another. Indeed, the approach to environmental issues should be cross-sectoral and comprehensive. To operationalize these strategic thrusts and actions, institutional adjustments should be undertaken, namely:

a) The capacity of the ASEAN Secretariat should be strengthened as discussed in Strategy 10. The ASEAN Secretariat should play an active supportive and coordinative role in the implementation of all actions identified in this Plan. While it is recognized that the Secretariat may not have sufficient resources to augment its present staff, it could explore arrangements with multilateral agencies supportive to the organization to have professionals seconded to the Secretariat to help ensure the implementation of this Plan.

b) ASOEN Working Groups should start preparing the necessary adjustments in their programmes and activities consistent with the identified strategic thrusts. Table 3 is a summary matrix of working groups vis a vis the strategic thrusts.

4.2 Financing the Strategic Plan of Action on the Environment

4.2.1 Cost-sharing Arrangements

88. The inadequacy of funds to support the various programmes and projects of ASOEN remains the main limiting factor in attaining its objectives. As evident from the previous plans, while many project proposals were developed, donors did not support the proposals either due to limited funds or they did not fall within the donors' priority areas for assistance. On the other hand, these proposals were developed precisely on the basis of their importance to the region. Some of these project proposals could be important enough to be considered for implementation even without external funding. Accordingly, ASOEN should explore ways of generating funds to support such priority regional activities. A cost-sharing scheme or arrangement among participating member countries should be explored and devised to make these funds available. The ASEAN Secretariat should initiate studies to look into the feasibility of the cost-sharing scheme.

4.2.2 The ASEAN Fund

89. The ASEAN Fund was established in 1969 to finance ASEAN collaborative projects, programmes and activities approved by the ASEAN Foreign Ministers. Since its establishment, the Fund has been largely unutilized owing to the complex and cumbersome procedures stipulated in the 1969 Agreement governing the Fund. The ASEAN Standing Committee (ASC) has taken initiatives to address these problems and has most recently asked the ASEAN Secretariat to come up with recommendations to improve the utilization of the Fund. The Fund will initially consist of US$6 million with contributions of US$1 million from each member country. In general, ASEAN collaborative projects approved by the ASEAN Foreign Ministers through the ASC are eligible for financing under the Fund. More specifically, the four categories of activities eligible for financing under the Fund are those that:

a) promote ASEAN cooperation or perspective;

b) are confidential or strategic in nature;

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c) require co-financing and counterpart funding from ASEAN; and

d) are priority projects not qualified for Dialogue Partner funding.

90. The Fund will give priority to urgent, short-term activities of a strategic or confidential nature and which are considered fundamental in building a stronger cooperative ASEAN infrastructure. There are some possibility in attracting this Fund in specific strategic areas such as trade and environment issues.

4.2.3 The ASEAN Sub-regional Environment Trust (ASSET)

91. The ASOEN and the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding which authorizes WWF to develop proposals, enter into discussions with donors on behalf of ASOEN, and later on to provide assistance in the actual establishment and implementation of ASSET. ASSET could be designed along the lines of the more than 15 Trust Funds that were established with the technical assistance of WWF. Two avenues are being explored for ASSET: a free-standing trust fund that is not related to any project and one that is dedicated to the financing of the ASEAN Strategic Plan of Action of the Environment. The first approach is similar to the ASEAN Cultural Fund. For the second approach, it is advisable to explore the pooling of contributions of ASEAN Dialogue Partners into ASSET with projects based on the Strategic Plan of Action on the Environment. The ASEAN Plan of Action on the Environment would attract donor support since attention has been given to transboundary protected areas, migratory terrestrial and marine species, and GIS-based biodiversity information systems.

4.2.4 Project-related Funds

a) Funding from Dialogue Partners

92. The support of Dialogue Partners to ASEAN's environmental programmes has not been as strong as would have been expected, considering their overall commitment to environmental protection. UNEP and UNDP have been generally instrumental in getting many ASEAN projects off the ground and completed. UNEP catalyzed the preparation of ASEP documents and funded many workshops, seminars, study tours and training programmes. UNDP supported projects on transboundary pollution problems and environmental education. Australia, the U.S and New Zealand have also supported ASEAN's environment programmes. Australian assistance was provided to projects under the Working Groups on Environmental Management and ASEAN Seas and Marine Environment, while US support focused on projects of the Working Group on Environmental Management. New Zealand assistance was obtained for projects of the Working Group on Transboundary Pollution.

93. Despite UNDP and other Dialogue Partners support for ASEAN efforts on the environment, implemented and completed projects have fallen short of the goals of the various programmes and the sense of urgency expressed in several resolutions on the environment. Percentage of funds earmarked for environmental programmes by the Dialogue Partners against their total contribution to the Functional Cooperation programmes and projects have been very low, for instance, Australia - 5%; USA - 9% and UNDP 12%. As cited in the Report on the UN ESCAP Mission to ASEAN Member Countries in September 1991 "the uncertainty of the source of funds for ASEAN regional environmental projects has consistently afflicted ASEAN cooperation in the environmental field".

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94. It may however, be noted that with regard to Dialogue Partner funding, it has become clear that donors are moving away from the traditional donor-recipient relationship into one of mutual and equal partnership with preference for supporting projects from which economic benefits can flow to the industrial and private sectors. Some Dialogue Partners have also expressed the need for ASEAN countries to increase their contribution to collaborative projects through cost-sharing or co-financing schemes. This notwithstanding, there is some scope for enhancing the assistance from the Dialogue Partners to fund this Strategic Plan of Action on the Environment, including the possibility of establishing a trust fund with Japanese support similar to the existing ASEAN Cultural Fund.

b) Global Environment Facility (GEF)

95. The Global Environment Facility was conceived to support projects that address global environmental issues, particularly ozone depletion, climate change and biodiversity. The Facility is currently managed by the World Bank, UNDP and UNEP. Discussions are now underway on the second phase of the GEF, i.e. GEF II, to make it a more democratic environmental funding mechanism with universal membership, a voting arrangement acceptable to both developed and developing member countries, and - if current expectations are met - a budget nearly double that of its three-year pilot phase. ASOEN should tap the GEF for funding its projects

c) Asia Sustainable Development Fund

96. The Asian Development Bank has established the *Asia Sustainable Development Fund* which will have US$ 100 million capital to invest in companies undertaking sustainable development projects in the Bank's developing and newly-industrialized member countries. ASEAN should similarly tap this Fund for its projects, particularly those that involve the private sector.

5 CONCLUSION

97. The past economic performance of the ASEAN countries have indicated its capacities to achieve growth. This trend is likely to continue as these countries industrialize, especially with the implementation of the ASEAN Free Trade Agreement (AFTA). ASEAN as a whole is conscious that growth without due regard to environment cannot be sustained in the long term. Thus, environment ranks high in the priority of ASEAN leaders and officials. As proof of this, ASEAN has made seven major declarations/resolutions on the environment in just slightly over a decade since the first one in Manila in 1981. ASEAN has come out with three major programmes (ASEPs I to III) of regional cooperation on the environment. But the environmental challenge remains; more so as ASEAN endeavors to maintain its competitive edge in the global economic area. The impetus provided by the Earth Summit, the mandate from the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, the leadership provided by the Commission on Sustainable Development, and the guidance from Agenda 21, provide reason that ASEAN can meet these challenges. The Strategic Plan of Action on the Environment reflects these perspectives. Its objectives could only be achieved through the strong commitment and continued support of the Governments of ASEAN member countries.

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Action Plan for ASEAN Environment Year 1995

The Fourth Meeting of the ASEAN Senior Officials on the Environment held in Bangkok, Thailand on 6 - 8 July 1993 decided to designate the year 1995 as the ASEAN Environment Year (AEY). National and regional activities will be conducted throughout the year 1995. The Action Plan for AEY is as follows:

1. Objectives

1.1 To highlight ASEAN environmental issues and cooperative programmes in order to stimulate awareness of these issues among the ASEAN populace.

1.2 To broaden the participatory process in the area of the environment in ASEAN.

1.3 To stimulate regional activities in the environment area.

2. Promotional Theme

"ASEAN Environment Year 1995 : Green & Clean"

3. Official Opening

Launching of AEY on January 1st, 1995 should be set by each ASEAN member country.

4. Logo for ASEAN Environment Year

Logo for AEY should be used for promotional materials and activities. Thailand will propose a logo(s) which will incorporate the ASEAN logo for concurrence by the working group of AEY by July 1994.

5. Pre-launching Activities

5.1 Press kit : Brunei Darussalam will prepare a press kit which will be available to ASEAN member countries for release during the launching of AEY 1995.

5.2 Promotional campaign : Each ASEAN member country is encouraged to undertake promotional campaign through the mass media.

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6. ASEAN Environment Year Activities

6.1 Regional Activities

6.1.1 Meetings/ Seminars/ Training Workshop such as :

- ASEAN meetings/workshops with participation from NGOs and private sectors.
- Environmental Camp(s) for ASEAN Youth.

6.1.2 Campaigns/Exhibitions. Emphasis will be given to the theme of AEY 1995: Green and Clean.

- International trade fair for environmentally sound and friendly products and technologies.
- Roving exhibitions of various competitions of ASEAN wide photo competition, art competition and essay competition in ASEAN capitals.

6.1.3 Public Relations

- Exchange of publicity materials such as videos, pamphlets, radio clips etc., among ASEAN member countries.
- Dissemination, as widely as possible, of publications on ASEAN countries' achievements and future directions in environmental management.
- Promotion of the theme "ASEAN ENVIRONMENT YEAR" in all ASEAN and national activities in 1995.

6.2 National Activities

The following activities are recommended for implementation at the national level:

6.2.1 Organisation of EXPO(s) on environmentally-friendly products.

6.2.2 Exhibition of environmentally sound technology and equipment.

6.2.3 Organisation of various competitions including art, essay, photo etc. on environmental topics.

6.2.4 Production of various public information materials for radio, television, campaign, exhibition etc.

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6.2.5 Production of stamps, souvenirs, coins, telephone cards on AEY theme.

6.2.6 Participation of the public and private sectors in AEY activities.

6.2.7 Organisation of an AEY concert.

6.2.8 Organisation of campaigns such as : clean water campaign, nationwide battery collection campaign, collection of hazardous waste from domestic sources campaign, intensive environmental education and awareness campaign, clean up campaign, tree planting campaign, waste minimization and recycling campaign.

6.2.9 Leadership training of environmental volunteers.

7. Recommendations

7.1 Working Group on Environmental Information, Public Awareness and Education (WGEIPAE) will be the coordinator of this Action Plan. They shall meet to discuss the detail as soon as possible.

7.2 The launching should be led by the highest level of official possible of each ASEAN country.

7.3 WGEIPAE may seek assistance from ASEAN Secretariat or other sources for funding of regional activities.

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ASEAN HARMONIZED ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY STANDARDS

AMBIENT AIR QUALITY

Long-term Goal

To achieve an ambient air quality below 100 Pollutant Standards Index (PSI) by the year 2010 with priority on urban and industrialised areas.

RIVER WATER QUALITY

Long-term Goal

To achieve the following river water quality by the year 2010 with priority on urban and industrial areas:

pH	:	6.0 to 8.5
DO	:	2 mg/l or more
BOD	:	10 mg/l or less
TSS	:	200 mg/l or less

Bandar Seri Begawan Resolution on Environment and Development Bandar Seri Begawan, 26 April 1994

RECOGNISING that in line with the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, which provided the impetus for sustainable development, ASEAN should promote the principles contained in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and actively implement Agenda 21;

CONSIDERING that economic growth and environmental management are inseparable and crucial to sustaining and further improving the quality of life of the people of ASEAN;

REALISING that international and regional cooperation and efforts are necessary to support the national and regional implementation of Agenda 21;

FURTHER REALISING the necessity to strengthen and enhance regional cooperation in the management and control of transboundary movements of hazardous wastes into and within the ASEAN region; and

CONSCIOUS that ASEAN member countries share common environmental aims and objectives and that the state of the environment lies ultimately in the hands of the people of ASEAN themselves;

WE, THE ASEAN MINISTERS FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, HEREBY AGREE:

1. To adopt and implement the ASEAN Strategic Plan of Action on the Environment to attain the following objectives:

   (a) to respond to specific recommendations of Agenda 21 requiring priority action in ASEAN;

   (b) to introduce policy measures and promote institutional development that encourage the integration of environmental factors in all developmental processes both at the national and regional levels;

   (c) to establish long term goals on environmental quality and work towards harmonised environmental quality standards for the ASEAN region;

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(d) to harmonise policy directions and enhance operational and technical cooperation on environmental matters, and undertake joint actions to address common environmental problems; and

(e) to study the implications of AFTA on the environment and take steps to integrate sound trade policies with sound environmental policies.

2. To declare 1995 as the ASEAN Environment Year to highlight ASEAN environmental issues and cooperative programmes, and to stimulate awareness of these issues among the ASEAN populace; broaden the participatory process in the area of the environment in ASEAN; and stimulate regional activities in the area of the environment.

3. To adopt a set of Harmonised Environmental Quality Standards for ambient air and river water quality and implement the needed measures to attain these standards by the year 2010.

4. To strengthen cooperation among ASEAN countries to ensure the effective implementation of the decision of the Second Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention.

Done in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam, this
Twenty-sixth Day of April
in the year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Ninety-four.

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PENGIRAN DATO SERI PADUKA DR. HAJI ISMAIL
BIN PENGIRAN HAJI DAMIT
Minister of Development
Brunei Darussalam

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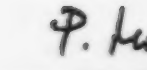
MR SARWONO KUSUMAATMADJA
State Minister for the Environment
Indonesia

/...

DATUK LAW HIENG DING
Minister of Science, Technology and the Environment
Malaysia

MR ANGEL C. ALCALA
Secretary
The Department of Environment & Natural Resources
The Philippines

MR MAH BOW TAN
Minister for Communications and Minister for the Environment
Singapore



MR PREECHA MUSIKUL
Deputy Minister of Science, Technology and Environment
Thailand